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**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 11 Northern Region**

Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
DIVISION 10 COMMANDER'S REPORT
To District 11 North

TO: DCO Curtis Han, D11NR
Cc: District Board and Staff
DATE: June, 2023 ACTIVITIES REPORT
DIVISION: 10 - San Joaquin Valley
DCDR: Thomas Witt

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Flotilla 10-02 Modesto, Chris Bennett
- Flotilla 10-03 Stockton, Monica Eaton
- Flotilla 10-05 Fresno, Donald Pierce
- Flotilla 10-06 Kaweah, Rod Rollins

DETAILS:

- **Flotilla 10-02**
The flotilla always has 8 – 9 members at our flotilla meetings. Flotilla staff officers are all busy doing their jobs.
We are still growing as a flotilla with more applications to be processed.
The flotilla is also receiving 25 free tickets to the Modesto Nuts baseball game.
There are a lot of local events that I am looking at for PA.
- **Flotilla 10-03**
Vernon Swartz is a new member, and needs to have someone to mentor him in becoming a VE and also is interested in becoming an instructor. Vernon is a retired school teacher and has a high level of attention for learning. Vernon is also interested in becoming a crew member.
Have not heard back from other potential members who might be interested in joining.
- **Flotilla 10-05**
1. Have conducted 2 patrols on May the 20th and the 21st. Had to cancel other patrols on the 27th through the 29th. Distance for travel required an extra day and therefore caused these days to be turned down in AUXDATA. There is only 1 facility in the flotillas 10-05 and 10-06, they are having a hard time getting enough hours in to meet the requirements. There are 2 other vessels being upgrade and readied to become facilities for the upcoming season. This will take time and money to complete.
There are 13 Coxswains and crew plus new trainees that need to get time in and have adequate hours to stay current.
2. University High was the site of a Boat America class with 20 students attending and graduating.

3. Membership is on the upswing and is heading towards pre Covid levels. It is a slow process, but new members are of a quality that will benefit the flotilla with leadership in the future.
3. PPE's have been inventoried and inspected with the forms sent into DIRAUX.
4. Planning to attend the SAREX at Rio Vista.
5. Planning to attend the operations and R/M classes when presented.
6. CONTACTING ALL MEMBERS CHECKING STATUS AND GOALS

MARTIN OUELLETTE WORKING ON TCO, INSTRUCTOR, PV, VE. PURSUING WATCHSTANDER WITH STATION RIO VISTA.

JAMES TORRANCE: PARTICIPATED IN THE VETERAN'S PARADE, COMPLETED INSTRUCTOR, AUXOPS AWARD, WELL ON HIS WAY FOR BOATCREW, CERTIFIED AS INTERPETOR IN GERMAN.

JOHN FERRETTI: DUTIES AS VFC, VSC, ORGANIZING EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS TO US NAVAL SEA CADETS, ASSISTING IN RECRUITING FOR COAST GUARD.

STEVE PITTS: STILL RECOVERING AND BECOMING HEALTHY. BECAME CURRENT IN CT REFRESHING VSC, PV AND STAFF OFFICER POSITION. HE IS DOING MUCH BETTER AND REBUILDING PHYSICALLY

DONALD PIERCE: MENTORING MEMBERS. TRYING TO BE FC, TRAINING MARLINSPIKE TO RANGER BOAT CREWS, ORGANIZING PA EVENTS

SANTIAGO SINSUAN: RECEIVED AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP, BECAME AUXILIARY MEMBER WORKING ON INTERPRETER, BOAT CREW, VE

SIMON ELMAN: ASSISTING RED CROSS WITH WEATHER RELATED EVACUATIONS AND STILL WORKING ON AUX CERTIFICATIONS VE, PV, INSTRUCTOR.

RAMON FLORES: BECAME AP, WORKING ON CT

EVENTS:

CHILDRENS WATER SAFETY DAY, 200 PEOPLE MANY AGENCES
KIDS FISHING DERBY, EASTMAN LAKE FUN HAD BY ALL

- **Flotilla 10-06**

Three new/prospective members- Two applications have been approved-J. Mathews and C. Phillips-Wood still waiting for DD-214 for third member. All three have completed safe boating class and Phillips-Wood has completed 100/700 and 200/800.

Planning has begun for events in June and July. Issue with number of individuals who need OTW hours and number of hours available based upon budget constraints.

Conducted patrols at Lake Millerton after participating at the Kids Day Safety event on the 20th. The Kids Day has numerous LE and other agencies participating with static displays, rescue swimmer delivery. Both 10-05 and 10-06 participated in the event. The Auxiliary assisted with 196 life vests exchange for kids.

Will begin core training classes at Mid-Month meeting due to new members and others members reaching the 5-year cycle. Both C. Phillips-Wood and myself plan to attend the mini-D-Train.

SO, Reports;

- SO-OP (*operations*) Donald Pierce, Patrols are limited due to having only one facility in 10-05 and 10-06.

Patrol scheduled for the 1st of July at Don Pedro reservoir for the fireworks.

Patrol to be scheduled for the 3rd of July for the Mandeville fireworks, and need 3 more for the SJ Sheriffs request if we can.

- SO-PA (*Public Affairs*) Rebecca Obrien-Witt

Flotillas 10-02 and 10-03 started off National Safe Boating Week with the Kids Matter event on May 20, as planned. It was great weather and as always, a very nice community sponsored event for the kids and parents. The kids enjoyed the Fishing Game, as well as the channel fishing, with some of them also landing real fish. Sincere thanks go to Mike Rafatti and Jo Lynn Edwards for all their work that day.

Memorial Day weekend ended National Safe Boating Week on May 27, and Flotilla 10-02 was given the opportunity to participate in a multi-site water safety event being held by the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office, their STARS volunteers, Stockton Police Department, and MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers), with contributions of materials from California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways. We were at the Buckley Cove site in Stockton, with a PA Booth having a main focus on Personal Flotation Devices, a Marine Safety Booth with an emphasis on Invasive Species of all types, and the Flotillas' VE's conducted vessel safety exams. The Sheriff's Department has been the recipient of a number of PFDs of different types donated to them for distribution, so the focus for the Sheriff's and MADD was both water safety education of all types; including Boating Under the Influence, and provision of PFDs to those persons needing them, at no cost to the individuals. Sincere thanks go to Mike Rafatti, Terri Simmons, Carrie Van De Boom, Mike Brady, and Jo Lynn Edwards for all their work at the event.

For Flotillas 10-05 and 10-06, May 20 was the Kids Safety Day on Lake Millerton, an annual event that brings together numerous public safety agencies, including California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, California Highway Patrol, Navy Search and Rescue, Cal Fire, Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Madera County Sheriff's Department, California Fish and Wildlife, State Park Patrol, Valley Children's Hospital, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This year over 200 people attended. Division of Boating and Waterways provided new lifejackets to approximately 120 children. The attendees could tour the various vehicles and rescue equipment, and talk to the personnel that perform the missions and operate the equipment. There were demonstrations of the types of rescues that they perform from the various rescue teams. There were helicopters, boats of different sizes, personal watercrafts, firetrucks, and rescue equipment. Valley Childrens Hospital did a safety puppet show as well.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

I believe it is very important that the Auxiliary continues to bring the message to the public about the conditions in our waterways that heighten the risk, such as the snowmelt causing cold water temperatures, rushing streams and rivers, and very deep waters in places that are usually more shallow. We will continue to look for opportunities to educate and inform the public about boating safely and general water safety, along with the current risks and challenges created by this year's winter weather.

- SO-PB (*Publications*) Chris Bennett

The Division newsletter will be finished soon and will be sent out.

I am adding Flotilla and Division pictures and events.

State of the Division statement from our Division Commander for the newsletter.

Currently working on a write up on the Cere's Street fair and the actives that were done and attendance from the public and flotilla's members.

- SO-PE (*Public Educations*) Tom Witt

Flotilla 10-02 completed 1 member PE course for new member to achieve BQ status.

Flotilla 10-05 has scheduled classes during the week of, June the 18th through the 24th, at Lake Huntington for staff and scouts to develop boating safety.

- SO-VE (*Vessel Examiners*) Steve Bradon

During various PA events, Mike Rafatti, and Mike Brady did multiple PE's for the marinas that were scheduled for the PA booths.

Steve Bradon has been busy doing VE's at Oyster Point after he gets off of work.

DCDR Comments:

- The Division calendar has all of the flotilla's meetings along with Division and District.
- Division 10 OPTREX will be on the same day as our next face-to-face meeting. We need to reschedule the meeting to either a zoom or another date for the face-to-face meeting
- Congratulations were given to the members of Division 10 who have been bringing in new members. We are no longer the smallest in the District by only one, but we are growing.
- Member training is the next thing on our list of duties to the membership. Don't forget the mentoring part of the equation. Without that, members lose interest and fall by the wayside and feel that they are wasting their time and money. Their time reported into DIRAUX is worth \$10.00 an hour to the gold side. Some will want to know, what's in it for me? The answer is, knowing that with their training and contacts with the public means that we save lives.
- Mentoring and leadership are on the top of our list. The new year is going to be on us in the very near future and that includes the need for several changes in elected officers. Mentoring so that there is adequate training, so the new and existing members can function as Coast Guard Auxiliarist. There are constant changes with our rolls and having to adapt is a constant.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- **Robert Davis 10-03** For BQ status
- **Guy Mallery 10-03** Leadership as FC during 2022
- **Terri Simmons 10-02** For BQ status
- **Steve Bradon 10-02** Leadership as FC for 2022
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Goals:

Emphasis on recruiting, retention and re-involvement.
Present training in leadership for future involvement.
Improve member participation and increase membership.